

IB Theory of Knowledge

2015-2016

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“All men have opinions, but few think.” – George Berkeley

Theory of Knowledge is the capstone course in the International Baccalaureate program of study. The major themes in our TOK course of study are:

- *How do you know?*
- *How do you know that what you think you know is true?*
- *What is knowledge?*

There are many different **ways of knowing** something. Language, Reason, Emotion, and Perception are the major ways we observe, research, and learn in our everyday world. In the course of the school day, our ways of knowing are broken down into more curricular driven areas of knowledge. These **areas of knowledge** are the Natural and Human Sciences, History, the Arts, Ethics, and Mathematics.

TOK is designed to challenge us to reflect critically on diverse **ways of knowing** and to consider the role which knowledge plays in a global society and our assumptions in everyday life. Essentially, the purpose of both TOK and the entire IB program is to better enable you to become a well-rounded individual and a life-long learner. You should come out of TOK with a better understanding of both who you are and how you think about real life situations, your everyday life, and the world around you.

“To know one’s ignorance is the best part of knowledge” – Lao Tse

Grading Procedures:

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways. All assessed work will have clearly laid out instructions and assessment criteria. In addition to class participation, students can expect to write a number of critical essays and prepare oral presentations. Of main importance are the IBO prescribed External Assessment Essay and the Internal Assessment Presentation.

Three Components of the Semester Grade:

- Essays, Projects, and Homework (60%)
- Class participation (20%)
- Journal (20%)

Grade Related Class Policies:

- **Missing Work:** The opportunity to use the Second Chance Room will be given to students who will benefit from additional study time.
- **Absences:** If absent, it is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher for missing formative and summative assessment assignments.
- **Retake Policy:** Students may use the Social Studies Department Retake Ticket to earn additional opportunities to demonstrate their learning.
- **Learner Profile:**
 - **Active Learning:** Active learning is contributing to class discussions on a daily basis through the asking of questions, commenting on others comments, furthering ideas, and speaking respectfully and often. It also includes doing all your daily work with full effort.
 - **Integrity:** Academic honesty is of the utmost importance to the instructors of this course and is a vital part of maintaining a credible institution of learning. Academic dishonesty tarnishes the integrity of everyone involved and ruins careers and reputations. There is absolutely no excuse for academic dishonesty. If you are caught participating in any behavior that is academically dishonest as defined by the SAS Student Handbook, the instructor will follow school guidelines in reporting your offense. This may result in a failing grade for the assessment or course. If you are having difficulty keeping up with the workload for this course, please see your instructor. In addition to abiding by all Academic Honesty guidelines in the Student Handbook, a student demonstrating Integrity is focused and on task at all times – no Skype, no dashboard games, no fantasy sports, etc.
 - **Responsibility:** Student completes assignments on time and with full effort.

SIGNATURES

“I have read and understood the course rules and regulations for TOK.”

Student Name (please print):

Student Signature:

Student Email:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Parent/Guardian Email: